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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,008	10/31/2003	Sheng-Nan Lu	TA7042732001	8242
23639	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
BINGHAM, MCCUTCHEN LLP THREE EMBARCADERO CENTER 18 FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4067			KYLE, MICHAEL J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,008	LU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael J Kyle	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because line 24 recites “the second opening of the positioning ring”. Examiner believes “positioning ring” should be replaced with --rotating ring--, to maintain consistency with lines 7-9 of the claim.
2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the limitation “C-like” in the last line of the claim. It is unclear if the term “like” incorporates elements not actually claimed. Examiner suggests replacing this with --C-shaped--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,507) in view of Lu (U.S. Patent No. 6,170,120). Katoh discloses a hinge comprising a first sheet (1a) with a first non-circular opening, two first wings (rounded portions). Katoh also discloses a second sheet (5) with a third opening having two slots (5d) radially disposed around an outer circumference of the third opening. The second sheet also has two wings (on either side of 5c). Katoh further discloses a positioning ring (6) mounted on the second sheet (5), with a non-circular fourth opening (6a), and at least one protrusion (6c). An

elastic ring (7,8) is provided on the positioning ring. A washer (3) is mounted on the elastic ring. A pintle (1) with a non-circular cross section extends through the first opening of the first sheet (1a), the positioning ring (6), and the second sheet (5). The pintle has an annular recess (1b) receiving a C-like collar (4). Katoh does not disclose the first and second lugs or the rotating ring. Additionally, Katoh discloses the third opening to have only two slots, not four, as claimed.

5. Lu discloses a hinge comprising pintle (20) with a first sheet (23) having two lugs (opposite ends of 231), a second sheet (10) having two lugs (15), and a rotating ring (30). This arrangement positively limits the range of motion of the hinge. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Katoh as taught by Lu in order to limit the range of motion of the Katoh's hinge. The combination would result in first lugs being incorporated on first sheet (1a) of Katoh, second lugs being incorporated on the second sheet (5) of Katoh, and the rotating ring being placed about the pintle, of Katoh.

6. With respect to claims 3-5, Katoh discloses the first opening (on 1a) includes two parallel linear sides, and two arcuate sides. The four the opening and the pintle also have two parallel linear sides and two arcuate sides.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to hinges: Parmelee, Tanahashi et al, Oellrich et al, Higano et al, Lu et al, and Lu (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,416).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J Kyle whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mk


Judy Swann
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